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Stedman's

Medical Dictionary



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or group of muscles. 2. A muscle

spasmolytic

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the division of a single species into two or more genetically distinct ones.

species *spe'shez, -sez* *n., pl. species* 1. A fundamental category of taxonomic classification, ranking below a genus or subgenus and consisting of related organisms capable of interbreeding. 2. An organism belonging to such a category, represented in binomial nomenclature by an uncapitalized Latin adjective or noun following a capitalized genus name, as in the bacterium *Escherichia coli*. 3. A class of pharmaceutical preparations consisting of a mixture of dried plants in sufficiently fine division to be used in making boiled extracts or infusions. 4. A specific type of atomic nucleus, atom, ion, or molecule.

species-specific *adj.* 1. Limited to or found only in one species. 2. Of or being a serum that acts only upon a member of the same species as that from which the original antigen was obtained.

species-specific antigen *n.* An antigen that is common to members of a single species and that provides a means by which that species can be immunologically distinguished.

specifical (*spī-sif'ik*) *adj.* 1. Relating to, characterizing, or distinguishing a species. 2. Intended for, applying to, or acting on a specified thing. 3. Designating a disease produced by a particular microorganism or condition. 4. Having a remedial influence or effect on a particular disease. 5. In immunology, having an affinity limited to a particular antibody or antigen.

—n. A remedy intended for a particular ailment or disorder. *—specifical-ly* *adv.*

specific action *n.* The action of a drug or treatment that has a direct, curative effect upon a disease.

specific activity *n.* Radioactivity per unit mass of a stated element or compound.

specific dynamic action *n.* *Abbr.* SDA An increase in the production of heat caused by the ingestion of food, especially proteins.

specific gravity *n.* *Abbr.* sg, sp gr The ratio of the mass of a solid or liquid to the mass of an equal volume of distilled water at 4°C (39°F) or of a gas to an equal volume of air or hydrogen under prescribed conditions of temperature and pressure.

specific immune globulin *n.* The globulin fraction of pooled sera or plasma from human donors having a normally high titer of antibodies specific for a particular antigen or a high titer of specific antibodies as a result of immunization.

specific immunity *n.* Immunity against a specific antigen or disease.

specificity (*spēs'ə-fis'i-tē*) *n.* 1. The condition or state of being specific. 2. The statistical probability that an individual who does not have the particular disease being tested for will be correctly identified as negative, expressed as the proportion of true negative results to the total of true negative and false positive results.

specific opsonin *n.* Opsonin formed in response to stimulation by a specific antigen.

specific parasite *n.* A parasite that habitually lives in

its present host and is particularly adapted for the host species.

specific reaction *n.* A phenomenon produced by an agent identical with or immunologically related to an agent that has altered the capacity of a certain tissue to react.

specific rotation *n.* *Symbol* α The arc of rotation, expressed in angular degrees, through which the plane of polarized light moves when it is in a light path one decimeter in length passing through a solution containing one gram of a compound per one milliliter water.

specific urethritis *n.* Urethritis caused by gonococci.

specimen (*spēs'ə-mən*) *n.* A sample, as of tissue, blood, or urine, used for analysis and diagnosis.

SPECT *abbr.* single photon emission computed tomography

spec-ta-cles (*spēk'tə-kəlz*) *n.* See *glasses* (sense 3).

spec-ti-no-my-cin (*spēk'tə-nō-mī'sin*) *n.* A broad-spectrum antibiotic obtained from a species of gram-negative bacteria or produced synthetically, used especially in the treatment of gonorrhea that is resistant to penicillin.

spec-tral (*spēk'trəl*) *adj.* Of, relating to, or produced by a spectrum. *—spec-tral'i-ty* (*-trāl'i-tē*), *spec-tral-ness* (*-trāl-nis*) *n.*

spec-trin (*spēk'trīn*) *n.* A contractile protein of high molecular weight that is a component of a network in the membrane of red blood cells, giving the cells flexibility.

spectro- *pref.* Spectrum: *spectroscope*.

spec-trom-e-ter (*spēk-trōm'i-tər*) *n.* A spectroscopy equipped with scales for measuring wavelengths or indexes of refraction. *—spec'tro-met'ric* (*-trō-mēt'rik*) *adj.*

spec-trom-e-try (*spēk-trōm'i-trē*) *n.* The observation and measurement of wavelengths of light or other electromagnetic radiation.

spec-tro-pho-tom-e-ter (*spēk'trō-fō-tōm'i-tər*) *n.* An instrument for measuring the intensity of light of a definite wavelength transmitted by a substance or a solution, thus providing a measure of the amount of material in the solution absorbing the light. *—spec'tro-pho'to-met'ric* (*-fō'tā-mēt'rik*) *adj.*

spectrophotometric analysis *n.* The determination of the structure or quantity of substances by measuring their capacity to absorb light of various wavelengths. Also called *spectrophotometry*.

spec-tro-scope (*spēk'trə-skōp*) *n.* An instrument for producing and observing spectra. *—spec'tro-scop'ic* (*-skōp'ik*), *spec'tro-scop'i-cal* (*-i-kəl*) *adj.*

spec-tros-co-py (*spēk-trōs'kə-pē*) *n.* The study of spectra, especially experimental observation of optical spectra. *—spec-tros'co-pist* *n.*

spec-trum (*spēk'trəm*, *n., pl. -trums* or *-tra*, *-trā*) 1. The distribution of a characteristic of a physical system or phenomenon, especially the distribution of energy emitted by a radiant source arranged in order of wavelengths. 2. The color image presented when white light is resolved into its constituent colors;